

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Inside this issue:

Message from the Mayor	1
Redistricting Parking Permits	1
Don't Borrow Trouble	1
Employee Spotlight	2
Services to your Neighborhood	2
Photos	2
Community News	3
Upcoming Events	3

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Message from the Mayor

On February 1, 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson started "Negro History Week," which has grown into the Black History Month that we celebrate today.

As one of America's most noted historians, Dr. Woodson fought oppression with his pen. He published numerous books and journals, including the classic "Miseducation of the Negro," and founded what we now know as the field of African-American studies.

Today, his historic Shaw residence is in disrepair. But I'm proud that the city is working with the National Park Service and National Trust for Historic Preservation to turn it into a proper commemoration of his legacy.

As we celebrate Black History Month and remember the heroes who have come before us - Dr. King, Frederick Douglass, Rosa Parks, Langston Hughes, Dr. Woodson, and countless others - the best way to honor them is to carry their legacy forward. The 2,000 DC residents and businesses who volunteered their time on Dr. King's birthday provided a wonderful example.

Black History Month is a valuable time not just for African Americans - but for all Americans. It is a time for us to take a step back from our daily lives, to reflect on the accomplishments of those who have come before us, and to renew our resolve to fight for equality, opportunity, and justice.

Throughout February, the DC Public Library will host events commemorating Black History Month. For more information, call the DC Library at 727-1186 or visit their website at www.dclibrary.org.



Redistricting Changes Some Parking Permits

DC Residents from Ward 1 to Ward 8 will have to check where they are parking, thanks to new zone designations as a result of redistricting. Beginning Monday, February 11, the District Department of Transportation will change those parking signs in the redistricted areas.

Residents who need to renew registration before June 30 will automatically receive valid permits with their new zone designation. Everyone else who is affected should scrape off the current sticker from their windshields and bring the sticker along with their vehicle registration to any DMV site to receive a new sticker.

On those streets affected by redistricting, either ward permit will be honored until June 30. A ticketing moratorium will be in effect until June 30 for those with either permit displayed; however, enforcement of the new permit zones will begin July 1.

Don't Borrow Trouble

Buying a home can be a confusing process. Sadly, some lenders prey on unsuspecting residents and derail the dream of homeownership - before it even starts.

Victims of predatory lending end up being charged unusually high interest rates for loans, paying excessive, questionable, or unnecessary fees - even sometimes losing their homes. I'm proud to support Freddie Mac's "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaign to help District residents protect themselves from predatory lenders.

"Don't Borrow Trouble" will provide aggressive advertising on radio, TV, and bus stops; a strong referral network; consumer education workshops; and a network of assistance, involving District government and other organizations, to provide families expertise, financial support and training opportunities. For more information, call 1-866-DBT-HELP (866-328-4357). Or, if you believe you have been victimized, contact our Department of Banking and Financial Institutions at 727-1563. Our staff is there to lend assistance to citizens, and ensure that lenders are conducting business in accordance with our laws.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Emergency Management Agency](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Office of Community Outreach](#)

[Department of Public Works](#)

[Office on Aging](#)

[Housing and Community Development](#)

[Office on Latino Affairs](#)

[Department of Transportation](#)

Employee Spotlight

A HEROINE OF THE ANTHRAX CRISIS

During the October anthrax crisis, the DC Health Department's emergency command center undertook many extraordinary functions, including coordinating space and materials for the 100 staff from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, and managing the logistics for treating 17,000 people at DC General Hospital and One Judiciary Square. Sherry Adams, DOH's Director of Emergency Health and Medical Services, ran the command center.



SHERRY ADAMS

"None of those 17,000 people got sick," said Dr. Larry Siegel, DOH Senior Deputy Director for Medical Affairs. "Much of the credit for this goes to Sherry. She played a crucial role in organizing an extremely effective response to the anthrax attack."

Since Sherry began as director five years ago, she has helped to increase the ability of the Department of Health to respond to crises – from floods to bioterrorism to immunizing schoolchildren. She is a single mother, balancing her responsibilities as the head of a household with her job, which sometimes requires her to work 80 – 100 hours a week and on weekends. "The way we were able to respond when we were faced with the anthrax crisis was not something that came out of nowhere. It was the result of long, hard work that Sherry had been leading for several years," said Dr. Siegel.

Bringing Services to your Neighborhood

The District government has made antiquated computers, long lines and busy telephone numbers a thing of the past at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Recently, we took another step on the road to an improved and efficient DMV. The new customer service center at Penn Branch Shopping Plaza is now open.

The city now has three full-service DMV locations in our neighborhoods including the Shops at Georgetown Park and the H Street NE locations.

The DMV site at 301 C Street NW will be closed for renovations until March 11; however, the site will remain open for driver records, medical review, commercial drivers licenses, dealer and taxicab transactions. Once the site is reopened, it will offer a number of new services.

Photos



Mayor Williams tours a business district on Pennsylvania Ave., SE in Ward 6.



Mayor Williams visits with local school children on "Capitalsaurus Day."



Mayor Williams, Dr. Ivan Walks, and Dr. Larry Siegel receive a check for \$11.9 million from HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson to combat bioterrorism in DC.



Mayor Williams helps DC Council members cut the ribbon on the new DMV customer service center.



LINK TO OTHER
WEBSITES

[DC Vote](#)

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention
and Tourism](#)

Community News

- [Mayor Williams attends Winter Games in Salt Lake City](#)
- [City Plans Tree Grove Memorial to Honor Victims and Heroes](#)
- [City Receives \\$11.9 Million in Federal Funds](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.

Upcoming Events

02/17	Chinese New Year's 6th and I Streets, NW Parade begins at 2:00 pm
02/21	Grand Opening "Make a Difference Center" Hosted by Bank of America 2629 Douglas Rd, SE 1:00 pm
02/22	Woodrow Wilson High School Breakfast 3950 Chesapeake Street, NW 9:00 am
02/24	Mayor's Interfaith Council Consecration Service Howard University, Rankin Chapel 2371 6th Street, NW 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
02/25	Emergency Management Service Meeting Hosted by Bloomingdale Civic Association Saint George's Episcopal Church 2nd and U Streets, NW 7:00 pm
02/26	GLBT Advisory Committee Meeting Mayor's Press Room, 1st Floor 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

[Click here](#) to view Mayor's daily schedule.

